(b) the number of cases of dengue and malaria so far reported in Delhi this year after July, 2004 and the number of casualties reported so far;

(c) the specific reasons for abnormally large number of cases of malaria this year after 1996; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against officers and staff who are mainly responsible for taking action to prevent breeding of mosquitoes that spread these diseases during and after monsoons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per reports received from the concerned Health Authorites, there has been no abnormal increase of Dengue and Malaria in Delhi during 2004 as compared to those in the previous years. 575 confirmed Dengue Cases with 3 deaths and 605 Malaria Cases with no death have been reported this year after July, 2004.

(d) Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme regularly monitors mosquito breeding in MCD and NDMC areas and finding are conveyed to the concerned agencies on day to day basis for initiating anti-larval measures and taking appropriate remedial measures to prevent breeding of mosquitoes that spread the diseases. Action against the staff responsible for non-implementation of the control measures are taken by the respective implementing agencies.

Health benefits of spinach and its promotion

954. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spinach is a panacea for various ailments;

(b) if so, the health benefits of these vegetable;

(c) in view of its innumerable benefits, whether the Government propose to encourage use of this vegetable; and

(d) if so, the details of there action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) spinach leaves contain several active compounds including flavonoids with antioxidative, anti proliferative and anti inflammatory properties. A powerful water-soluble, natural antioxidant mixture (NAO), which specially inhibits the lipoxygenase enzyme, was isolated from spinach leaves. NAO has been found to be nonmutagenic and has shown promising anticarcinogenic effects in few experimental model such as skin and prostrate cancer. In addition 10g of spinach will provide 26 calories, 2.0 g of protein, 73 mg calcium 1.14 mg of iron, 2740 mg B-carotene, 28 mg of vitamin C.

(c) and (d) the spinach (Palak) is traditionally consumed by people in India. Though there is no specific action plan to encourage its use exclusively, many national programmes and nutritionists encourage the consumption of Green Leafy Vegetables (GLVs).

Amount for National Family Welfare Programme

†955. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to all the States of the country for National Family Welfare Programme for the year 2003-04 by Government;

(b) whether the amount is still available under the same head;

(c) the amount allocated to each of the States during the year 2004-05 and the amount provided to the States sc far; and

(d) by when the remaining amount would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) An amount of Rs. 2583.57 crores was released to the States through their Budget and Rs. 669.87 crores was released directly to the registered Societies in different States for the National Family Welfare Programme during the year 2003-04. Thus, a total of Rs. 3253.44 crores was released to the States.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.